



British Consulate

Tahiti.

11th November, 1909,

Sir:-

I beg to transmit to you herewith the draft of certain land laws which I think will greatly improve the present obsolete regulations by which land is now divided up between the Pitcairners, and which have given rise to so much quarreling and discontent.

Mr McCoy has been furnished with a copy of these regulations and I beg to request you to give this matter your most careful thought and consideration so that Mr McCoy may be in a position, on his return to Tahiti, to report the outcome of the Local Governments deliberations on this matter.

While Mr McCoy is at Pitcairn you will give him all information possible on every matter of importance so that he can report to me all that has occurred at Pitcairn during the last year.

I am,

Sir,

Your obedient servant.

HLML Consul and Deputy Commissioner for Western
Pacific

The Chief Magistrate

etc, etc, etc.

Pitcairn.

Proposed Land Laws to facilitate the equitable distribution of land in the Island of Pitcairn among the descendants of the Original Bountymen.

Read

1. That the land be surveyed, as far as possible, and that the original plots of the Bounty men be marked off and be fenced in, if practicable.
2. That these original plots, or divisions of land, as carried out by the Nine Bountymen, shall NOT be divided up into sections, but be kept in tact, and worked by each member of each respective family for the common good of that family.
3. That the money derived from, or made out of, the family plot of ground be divided up between each member of that family, but that the shares of the children shall go to the fathers or mothers of those children to defray the general expenses of the home until those children shall have arrived at the following ages:-

For a male child 17 years.

" female " 15 "

when they shall be entitled to draw their own share.

4. That in the case of the death of any member of a family the deceased's share shall revert to the other members of that family.
5. That in the event of the marriage of a female member of a family that she shall enjoy for the space of Two years the profits which may accrue from her share in the family plot, but that after that time her share shall revert to her family, and she shall have no further say or claim to her portion.

6 That any Pitcairn marrying a Foreigner, or one who is an alien to the Island, or one who is not a direct descendant of a Pitcairn, shall on his or her marriage immediately forfeit their portion in the family plot, which will revert to the members of his or her respective family. (Family in this clause means Father's family).

7. That should a family become extinct by death or immigration, that the plot of ground which belonged to that family shall become the property of the Local Government of the Island and be called ~~Government~~ "Government Land", to be worked or be rented, to the highest bidder, by the Local Government for the common benefit of the Island and that all the money derived therefrom shall be transmitted by the Chief Magistrate to His Majesty's Deputy Commissioner for Pitcairn Island to be forwarded by him in turn to His Majesty's High Commissioner for the Western Pacific to be credited by him to a sinking fund to meet any immediate cases of necessity, or for carrying out any important matter for the general improvement of the Island.

Read 8 That any of the Pitcairn families that want to Norfolk Island, and obtained the Government grant of land in that Island, shall have forfeited their right to their plot of land in Pitcairn Island, these plots having become Government land, to be worked or rented by the Local Government for the benefit of the Island, as laid down in Clause 7.

9 That any houses which have been erected on the plots as

as referred to in clause 8 shall have to be removed by their owners if required by the Local Government, or shall have to pay a small rent to the Local Government for the ground on which these houses are situated the money being dealt with by the Local Government as laid down in clause 7.

10 That the foregoing rules or clauses regarding the ownership of land in Pitcairn Island shall be laid before the Local Government of the Island for their approval or for any comments they may wish to make regarding same, but that in all cases the decision of His Majesty's High Commissioner for the Western Pacific shall be deemed final,

11 That these rules are liable to alteration or addition to if thought necessary at any time by His Majesty's High Commissioner of the Western Pacific

July 22. 1916.

Church land.

South end 16. yds

East " 41 "

North " 16 "

West " 38 "

July 19. 1916.

Land given to the Church

South end $6\frac{1}{2}$ yds

East " 6 "

North " $6\frac{1}{2}$ "

West " $5\frac{1}{2}$ "

Copy.

Papeete, Tahiti.

August 10, 1920.

Dear Sir,

I am anxious to obtain a settlement of the estate of my late husband, Leonard Christian, who died at Raiatea in January 1911. To this end I should be glad if arrangements could be made through the proper authorities for the sale of his properties in Pitcairn Island.

I am unable to describe these properties accurately but the authorities there would have little difficulty in ascertaining what properties belonged to my late husband at the time of his death. My husband dying intestate, I understand that his properties pass to me and my children who are all minors. The properties in question have been managed in the interval by Sydney Christian, brother of my late husband.

(Sd) Mrs. Eliza C. Brothers.

British Consul,

Tahiti, Soc. IIs.



OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER
FOR THE WESTERN PACIFIC,
SUVA, FIJI,

No. 1806/21.

August 31st, 1921.

Sir,

I am directed by the Acting High Commissioner for the Western Pacific to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of April 16th addressed to the Deputy Commissioner, Tahiti on the subject of the ownership of the piece of land No. 7.

2. The letter from Mr. Leonard Christian is an assent to the occupation of the land in question by Sydney Christian, and apart from that if Sydney Christian has held possession and occupation of the land since 1908 he would by law be the holder of a possessory title and could not in law be disturbed in possession.

3. Sydney Christian may therefore be taken as the owner of the land in which he has been in occupation for twelve years.

4. The Deputy Commissioner, Tahiti has been informed accordingly.

I am,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Secretary.

The Chief Magistrate,
Pitcairn Island.

BRITISH CONSULATE

Duplicate.

TAHITI,
SOCIETY ISLANDS

September 24th 1920.

Sir,

I inclose a copy of a letter which I have received from Mrs. Eliza Brothers relative to the property of her former husband, Leonard Christian.

It seems to be a very long interval after her husband's death and Mrs. Brothers seems very vague as to the nature of the properties in question. I told her, however, that I would send a copy of ^{her} a letter to you with the request that you would be good enough to let me know what properties her husband left and what steps can be taken to recover them.

She would appreciate anything that you can do to help her in the matter.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

H. B. M. Consul.

H. B. M. Consul.

The Chief Magistrate,
Pitcairn Island.

COPY.

"Wellington,"

High Street,

Highgate Hill,

South Brisbane, Aust.

March 27th, 1930.

Dear Sir,

I was informed by my brother in law, Richard Edgar Christian ex-Magistrate of Pitcairn Island that concerning my property on Pitcairn Island, of which I inherited and expect to claim from my father James Russell McCoy and my mother Eliza McCoy (wife of J.R. McCoy) that I have no right or claim to as long as I am not on the Island.

Sir will my claims to the property mentioned above be taken away from me on Pitcairn Island just because I am not on the Island at present, under any circumstances by anyone, as I have my trustee there to look after it for me.

There are surely no difference in Pitcairn and any other part of the world.

If we who are Pitcairn Islanders should leave home for a while like other people leaving their home for a while they could always own their property unless they choose to sell it.

But since there seems a way I understand have been opened to ship fruit to N.Z. for sale. And my brother in law wanted to do his best for us.

Others

Others who have no rights to voice in their opinion, is trying all they could to grasp at everything. When I left home first my father is alive and I left him as my trustee, then when he died I transfer it to my brother Edmund McCoy. And he died in December, 1929, so I sent to my sister who is the only one left of my father and mother's family and her husband R.E.Christian, and it seems that someone else there, wanted to have my father and mother's property be placed in the hand of a nephew, but as I object they want to cut me out of it.

Also could they or any one exclude any my children from an inheritance to my property should I choose to will it to them seeing that my three daughters married to outsiders, but none are foreigners, 2 are English from England and one is an Australian.

My son is the baby and still unmarried, so as to have everything settled properly will you please send me an answer concerning these matters as soon as possible. Also one that I could forward on to my brother in law with your sig.

My husband will be going there as soon as possible.

You will remember some time ago you sent him a pass to go there, but times have been so bad he could not go yet but hope to be able soon.

Trusting

-3.-

Trusting a quick reply as the oranges &c. there my sister wrote are plentiful and we need the money we could get from them ourselves.

I am, etc.,

(Signed) Mrs. Margaret Eliza Young.



OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER
FOR THE WESTERN PACIFIC,
SUVA, FIJI,

No. 1062.

20th June, 1930.

Sir,

I am directed by the High Commissioner for the Western Pacific to forward a copy of a letter received from Mrs. M. E. Young relative to the disposal of certain land on Pitcairn Island.

2. His Excellency will be glad to be informed of the position of this matter and whether Mrs. Young has a valid claim to the land in question.

I am,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Acting Secretary to the High Commission.

The Chief Magistrate,
Pitcairn Island.

27.3.30.

COPY

Pitcairn Island,

April 18, 1934.

To His Excellency,
High Commissioner for the Western Pacific,
Suva, Fiji.

Sir,

As I am an orphan, many years ago my father died in the year 1867 and four of us girls was left to make the best in life, and my father's property has been under the charge and care of our half brother J. R. McCoy to see that our legal right to the property of our parents be ours, at the death of J. R. McCoy our property goes in charge and care of my son Henry Norris Young, the only son of the family on the island.

All my sisters left the island some 17-30 years ago, and my parents property have been in the care and charge of the two mentioned above ever since.

My parents house was built in the year 1866 - and the old home was nearly all gone, and was repaired by my son Henry Norris Young 17 years ago, who is still living in that home.

Now I ask you this question please, have my sister Beatrice H. Young, any legal right to will the said house and place to anyone after my son have done all the repairs and is still living there for these seventeen years?

My son Henry Norris Young received a letter
from

from Mr. W. Carey now in South Africa stating that my sister Beatrice H. Young is dead and has willed her share of my parents property to his son and daughter who is with him in South Africa.

Sir, have my sister any legal rights to leave the island and property for about 17 or 18 years and then have a share in the property to will to M. W. Carey's children who are not Pitcairn Islanders?

Please give me your decision in this matter.

I remain, etc.,

(Signed) Margaret Augusta Young.

(Signed) Parkin Christian,

Chief Magistrate.

COPY

Pitcairn Island.

November 9th, 1954.

Sir,

I want to inform you that your letter of the 5th October with the draft and receipt in duplicate have arrived safely. And I Andrew C. Young (Trustee) for Mrs. I. W. Jacobsen am thanking you for the same.

I have also receive a copy of a letter from the British Consul-General in New York stating how the matter has turn out which I am thanking him for.

I am also enclosing the draft of £886.5.4. to you on her request to draw from this amount \$350.0.0. And it was her, I. W. Jacobsen, desire if you could bank the rest for her to be drawn by her three children should she be called away by death at any time.

In forwarding the change if possible to send in £1, £5, £10 notes as otharwise will be too big to change in using on the island.

Thanking you for your kind interest in her behalf,

I am, etc.,

(Signed) Andrew C. Young,
Trustee.

P.S.



OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER
FOR THE WESTERN PACIFIC,
SUVA, FIJI,

No. 2802.

18th December, 1934.

Sir,

With reference to my letter No. 2802 of the 5th October, I am directed by the High Commissioner for the Western Pacific to forward a copy of a letter received from Mr. Andrew C. Young, of Pitcairn Island, relative to the remittance from New York of the assets of the estate of the late Mr. N. O. Jacobsen.

2. His Excellency regrets that, in the absence of Mrs. Jacobsen's endorsement, it is not possible to cash the draft for £886.5s.4d. which accompanied Mr. Young's letter. The draft is accordingly returned herewith for endorsement by Mrs. Jacobsen. It should be noted also that Mrs. Jacobsen's signature on the back of the draft should be witnessed by you, in your official capacity as Chief Magistrate, and your signature as a witness should appear also on the back of the draft. To make clear the requirements in this respect the required signature's have been indicated

indicated

The Chief Magistrate,
Pitcairn Island.

9. 11. 34.

No. F8415 - 22.8.34.



- 2. -

indicated in the places where Mrs. Jacobsen and you should sign. Mrs. Jacobsen should sign in full, as indicated, thus:

"Inez W. Jacobsen."

The prefix "Mrs." should not appear.

3. The amount of the draft is in sterling and the value in Fiji currency will be the exchange value at the Bank's buying rate for sight drafts on London on the day of payment. The amount will therefore vary as the Fiji-London rate of exchange varies. I am informed that the value in Fiji currency is £980.8s.8d. at the present date.

4. Mr. Young asks in his letter that the sum of £350 be remitted in notes of £1, £5, and £10. The quantity required of each denomination of note should be stated. It should be stated also whether New Zealand or Fiji currency notes are required.

5. It is observed that Mr. A.C. Young states that he is the "Trustee for Mrs. I. W. Jacobsen." I am to request that Mr. Young may be informed that in order to enable the High Commissioner to recognise him as Mrs. Jacobsen's trustee it will be necessary for him to produce duly signed and witnessed documentary evidence of his appointment by Mrs. Jacobsen



- 3.-

in that capacity.

6. With regard to the request for the deposit of the balance of the proceeds of the draft for the benefit of Mrs. Jacobsen's children, I am to state that the Banks are unwilling to accept trust deposits of this nature, and advise that Mrs. Jacobsen's best course would be to seek the assistance of the Public Trustee in Wellington, New Zealand, in the matter. If the money were remitted to New Zealand a further gain in exchange would result.

7. In all the circumstances His Excellency is of opinion that it will be best for Mrs. Jacobsen to forward detailed instructions addressed to the Bank of New South Wales, Suva, as to the disposal of the proceeds of the draft and the despatch to her, by registered post, of the portion that she requires in cash. For her assistance in the matter I enclose a draft letter of instructions to the Bank. Care should be taken to ensure that any instructions that may ultimately be sent are properly signed by Mrs. Jacobsen and witnessed as indicated. If so desired the draft and letter of instructions may be returned to me, by registered post, if possible, for presentation to

the



- 4. -

the Bank.

I am,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Secretary to the High Commission.

Pitcairn Island.

January 23, 1935.

To His Excellency,
High Commissioner
Suva Fiji.

Sir,

This is to certify that I
Inez W. Jacobsen in the presence of the Chief Magistrate
appoint Andrew C. Young to act as Trustee in the
management of my draft amounting to eight -
hundred and eighty six pounds, five shillings and
four pence, with you for myself and children.

* Inez W Jacobsen

Witness

Richard Edgar Christian, Chief Magistrate.

Pitcairn Island.

January 23, 1935-

To the Manager

Bank of New South Wales,

Aura.

I hereby direct and request you to cash the attached draft from New York, United States of America, No. E. 84.15 of the 22nd August, 1934. For £886. 5. 4. sterling, and to forward the proceeds through the Bank of New South Wales in Wellington, New Zealand, as follows.

a. £250, to be remitted to me at Pitcairn Island in New Zealand currency notes as follows £100. in £1. notes, £100 in £5. notes, and £50 in £10. notes.

b. The balance to be held to my order by the Bank of New South Wales in Wellington, New Zealand.

Signed, Mrs. W. Jacobson.

I hereby certify that the above signature is that of Mrs. J. W. Jacobson of Pitcairn Island, and that it was hereto this day appended in my presence.

Richard Edgar Christian
Chief Magistrate

Specimen signature of Mrs D. W.
Jacobsen of Pitcairn Island (for Bank of
New South Wales, Wellington, New
Zealand;

Mrs W Jacobsen

I hereby certify that the above
signature is that of Mrs D. W. Jacobsen
of Pitcairn Island and that it was
hereto this day appended in my presence.

Richard Edgaw Christair
Chief Magistrate
Pitcairn Island.



OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER
FOR THE WESTERN PACIFIC,
SUVA, FIJI,

No. 1058.

2nd February, 1935.

Sir,

I am directed by the High Commissioner for the Western Pacific to forward a copy of correspondence with Mrs. M.A. Young, as noted in the margin, relative to the disposal, by will, by Miss Beatrice H. Young, of certain property in Pitcairn Island.

2. The Mr. W. Carey referred to by Mrs. Young would appear to be the person referred to in the correspondence ended with my letter No. 1228 of the 20th December, 1934. His Excellency will be glad if you will be so good as to keep him informed of any developments in this matter.

I am,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Secretary to the High Commission.

The Chief Magistrate,
Pitcairn Island.

COPY

No. 1058.

OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER
FOR THE WESTERN PACIFIC,
SUVA, FIJI,

2nd February, 1935.

Madam,

I am directed by the High Commissioner for the Western Pacific to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 18th April, 1934, enquiring with regard to the power of your sister to bequeath to strangers her share of certain property in Pitcairn Island, and to inform you that as the matter would appear to be one for a Judicial decision His Excellency regrets that he is unable to advise you in the matter.

I am,

Madam,

Your obedient servant,

(Signed) H. Vaskess

Secretary to the High Commission.

Mrs. Margaret Augusta Young,
Pitcairn Island.

Norfolk Island

" J.E.Road"

16th April 1935.

To
The Magistrate of Pitcairn's Island.

Dear Sir,

As I am interested in the Property that belong to (Arthur Quintal Senior) of Pitcairn's Island, I would be much obliged to you if you would kindly inform me, at your earliest date,

Also all particulars concerning the same said property. Would you kindly enquire into other land matter on some other Island, that the same (Arthur Quintal) Senior) has left.

As my Father's name being Joseph Quintal, a son of Arthur Quintal Senior) Therefore I being a Grandson to Arthur Quintal (Senior) would be much obliged for your kindness, Also a reply at the earliest date.

Yours Faithfully

William L. Quintal

I send my best Compliments to all the dear People on Pitcairns Island.
Hoping that they are all well and happy.
Would you kindly remember me also to Russel McCoy as I know him well.

Now I must draw to a close by wishing you good bye for the pres

Yours for ever

William L. Quintal



H.B.M.'s. AGENCY AND CONSULATE,
TONGA.

Chief Magistrate

The following is a correct form of
wills of personal property :-

"This is the last will of me, "Thomas Jones"
of Pitcairn Island, whereby I revoke all previous
wills and testamentary dispositions.

I give all the property of which I die
possessed to my wife Jane and my two
sons, Harry and William, in equal shares.

I appoint my wife Jane my executor.

Thomas Jones.

Remember to put
the DATE on
every will.

Signed by the testator
in the presence of us,
both present at the same
time who in his presence
, in the presence of each
other have hereunto set
our names as witnesses

James Christian, Pitcairn Is.
Noel Young, Pitcairn Is.

Note. This is a simple form of will. The witnesses - two -
should sign as I have written. They should not be
executors, they should not have been to persons
who have been left anything in his Will.

J.S.H.
14.6.87